



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

James A. Garfield National
Historic Site

8095 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, Ohio 44060
www.nps.gov/jaga

James A. Garfield National Historic Site News Release

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The James A. Garfield National Historic Site Opens in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mentor, Ohio - In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the James A. Garfield National Historic Site will be open to the public on Monday, January 19 from 10 am to 5 pm. Visitors will enjoy a guided tour of the carefully restored home of the nation's 20th President, as well as a variety of exhibits and a video biography of James A. Garfield.

James A. Garfield, a Civil War Union General and Reconstruction Era President, advocated the full rights of citizenship for African Americans. In his 1881 inaugural address he promised to protect their civil liberties, especially the right to vote. "Freedom can never yield its fullness of blessings so long as the law or its administration places the smallest obstacle in the pathway of any virtuous citizen." Garfield also supported universal education as the solution to the problem of racial inequality.

During James A. Garfield's 1880 presidential campaign, The Fisk Jubilee Singers of Nashville, Tennessee, a Negro Spiritual choral group, visited the candidate at his Mentor home. Deeply moved by their performance, Garfield declared, "I would rather be with you and defeated, then against you and victorious."


Entrance to the James A. Garfield National Historic Site is \$5 for visitors 16 years of age and older. America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands passes are also honored and sold. These include the Annual, Senior and Access passes. For more information about the JAGNHS, please contact Allison Powell at 440-255-8722.

About the James A. Garfield National Historic Site and the National Park Service

James A. Garfield National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), is located at 8095 Mentor Avenue (U.S. 20) in Mentor, Ohio, approximately 25 miles east of Cleveland. The 8-acre site consists of the main house and memorial library of James A. Garfield, the twentieth president of the

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United States, the 1880 presidential campaign office, the 1893 carriage house, the windmill and several outbuildings associated with the Garfield farm. Most of the furnishings and personal effects in the main house are original Garfield family pieces, on loan to the NPS by the Western Reserve Historical Society. In the late 1990s the house was completely restored by the National Park Service, making it one of the most impressive presidential homes preserved for the public. House tours run regularly, please call ahead for a schedule. Tours and the Visitor Center are largely wheelchair accessible. Special community events and special education programs for the public are scheduled throughout the year. The Garfield site is open from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon - 5 p.m., May through October. November through April the site is open weekends only, noon – 5:00 p.m. For information call (440) 255-8722, write 8095 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, OH 44060, or visit www.nps.gov/jaga.

The National Park Service, an Interior Department agency, is composed of more than 20,000 rangers, archaeologists, historians, biologists, architects, laborers, gardeners and other professionals who care for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. There are 385 national parks covering more than 84 million acres in every state (except Delaware), the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. For more information, please visit www.nps.gov.

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